



NEWS



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SAFE TRAVELS TOP THE CHP'S WISH LIST THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Designated drivers, buckled-up vehicle occupants, and undistracted motorists adhering to the speed limit along the state's roadways are just a few of the items that appear on the California Highway Patrol's (CHP) wish list this holiday season.

"As you prepare for the holiday traffic and winter weather, remember to plan ahead and leave yourself some extra time to make the trip," said CHP Commissioner Joe Farrow. "Rest assure that the CHP will be out there to assist you whenever there is a need."

Throughout their holiday travels motorists may encounter a number of CHP officers who begin their annual Christmas Maximum Enforcement Period (MEP) on Friday, Dec. 23 at 6:01 p.m. The CHP will continue the holiday enforcement effort through Monday, Dec. 26 at 11:59 p.m.

"This time of year more people travel, celebrations increase and the weather can be a challenge," said Commissioner Farrow.

Last year during the Christmas holiday weekend, four people were killed in collisions in California. One week later, 25 people were killed in crashes during New Year's weekend; half of those who died were not wearing a seat belt. In addition, the CHP made 658 arrests for driving under the influence during the Christmas MEP and 961 arrests the following holiday weekend.

"It's important to remember as the holiday celebrations kick into high gear during the next couple of weeks, always designate a driver before the party begins," added Commissioner Farrow.

The CHP will conduct a similar MEP effort over the New Year's holiday weekend which begins Friday, Dec. 30 at 6:01 p.m. and continues through 11:59 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 2, 2012.

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